

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 188
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Emma Lee Beckett
Batts of Dyersburg.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Emma Lee Beckett Batts; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Batts was an exemplary public servant and remarkably gifted teacher who worked assiduously to provide the highest quality education to her students; and

WHEREAS, born in Lauderdale County, Mrs. Batts was the daughter of the late Matrue and Jeannie B. Beckett; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Batts was a teacher for the Dyer County School System, where she worked tirelessly and with great compassion for forty-two years to impart knowledge to her students and to mold them into productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, she began her teaching career in 1946 in Alamo, where she taught social studies at Central High School; and

WHEREAS, throughout her career, Mrs. Batts distinguished herself as a professional of the highest dedication, ability, and integrity, and the positive influence she had on so many young lives is truly beyond measure; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to the teaching profession was an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel were valued highly by those who were fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Batts graduated in 1942 from Bruce High School in Dyersburg, and went on to attend Tennessee State University, from which she graduated in 1946 with a Bachelor's degree in Education; she continued to support her alma mater as an active alumna; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, she received her Master of Arts degree in Education from Murray State University in Kentucky and furthered her education by earning certification as a school counselor; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Batts was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Emma Lee Beckett Batts enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband, the late Bennie M. Batts, and her daughters, Robin Lucas Baldwin, and Vanna J. Ferguson; and

WHEREAS, she was further blessed with many grandchildren: Ayanay Ferguson Smith; Candice Ferguson; Jeremy Crossing; Raphael Clement; Christan Baldwin; and Ashley Beard; and a great-granddaughter, Mikayla Smith; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Batts was an active and devout member of the Womack Temple C.M.E. Church, which she served faithfully for many years as a Recording Steward and Financial Secretary, on the Trustee Board and the CYI Board, and with the Youth Choir; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her dedication to her family and her students, Mrs. Batts also had a passion and commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, a founding member of the Dyersburg Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., which she served in a number of official roles, Mrs. Batts was also active with the American Cancer Society, Lifeline Blood Services, Civitan, Special Olympics, and Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, she served on the Boards of Directors for the YMCA, the Dyer County Literacy Program, 911 Emergency, and the Dyer Childcare Center (Grace Presbyterian), of which she was a charter member; and

WHEREAS, ever dedicated to her profession, Mrs. Batts was the treasurer of the Retired Teachers Association; and

WHEREAS, Emma Lee Beckett Batts leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Emma Lee Beckett Batts, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Batts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.